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The changes in the astronomical constants above noted are made in conformity with the decisions of the *Paris Conference on Fundamental Stars*, held in May, 1896. They have also been introduced in the English *Nautical Almanac* for 1901, recently issued, and will be introduced in the Berliner *Astronomisches Jahrbuch* and the *Connaissance des Temps* for the same year.

Considerable opposition to these changes at this time has developed among astronomers; and those who are interested may find a vigorous discussion of the subject in recent numbers of the *Astronomical Journal*.

R. G. A.

#### SOLAR OBSERVATIONS IN 1897.

In the *Astrophysical Journal* for March 1898, Professor P. TACCHINI gives a résumé of the solar observations made at the Royal Observatory of the Roman College during the second half of 1897. From his tables it is seen that the spots have continued to decrease, particularly in area, while the prominences have remained practically stationary in activity. The prominences have continued to show themselves in nearly all zones — with a maximum of frequency between the equator and  $\pm 20^\circ$ . Two secondary maxima, however, occurred in the zones  $\pm 40^\circ$  to  $\pm 60^\circ$ . The spots were confined to regions within  $20^\circ$  of the equator. One eruption was observed on November 23d. A very bright jet suddenly formed on the west limb at latitude  $+8^\circ.2$  and rose to the height of  $168''$  (about 15,000 miles), disappearing in twenty minutes.

R. G. A.

#### NEW ELEMENTS OF COMET *b* 1898.

I have derived the following elements, using my observations of March 19th, 22d, and 26th.

$$\begin{array}{lcl} T = 1898 \text{ March } 16^d.79123 \\ \omega = 46^\circ 57' 11''.6 \\ \Omega = 262 \quad 18 \quad 53 \quad .1 \\ i = 72 \quad 21 \quad 14 \quad .4 \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} T \\ \omega \\ \Omega \\ i \end{array}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Ecliptic and} \\ \text{Mean Equinox of 1898.0.} \end{array}$$

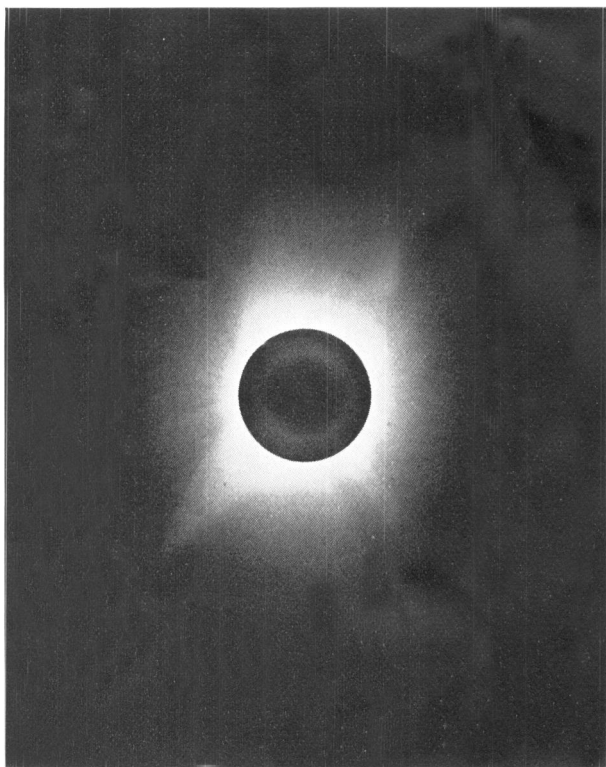
$$\log q = 0.040024.$$

Residuals for the middle place, observed — computed

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \Delta \lambda' \cos \beta' & + & 0''.3 \\ \Delta \beta' & - & 0.3 \end{array}$$

C. D. PERRINE.

MT. HAMILTON, April 5, 1898.



THE SOLAR CORONA OF JANUARY 22, 1898.  
(Photographed with the Floyd telescope, by W. W. CAMPBELL.)